PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

TYURATAM MISSILE TEST CENTER
LAUNCH COMPLEX J

GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

[redacted]

DECEMBER 1967
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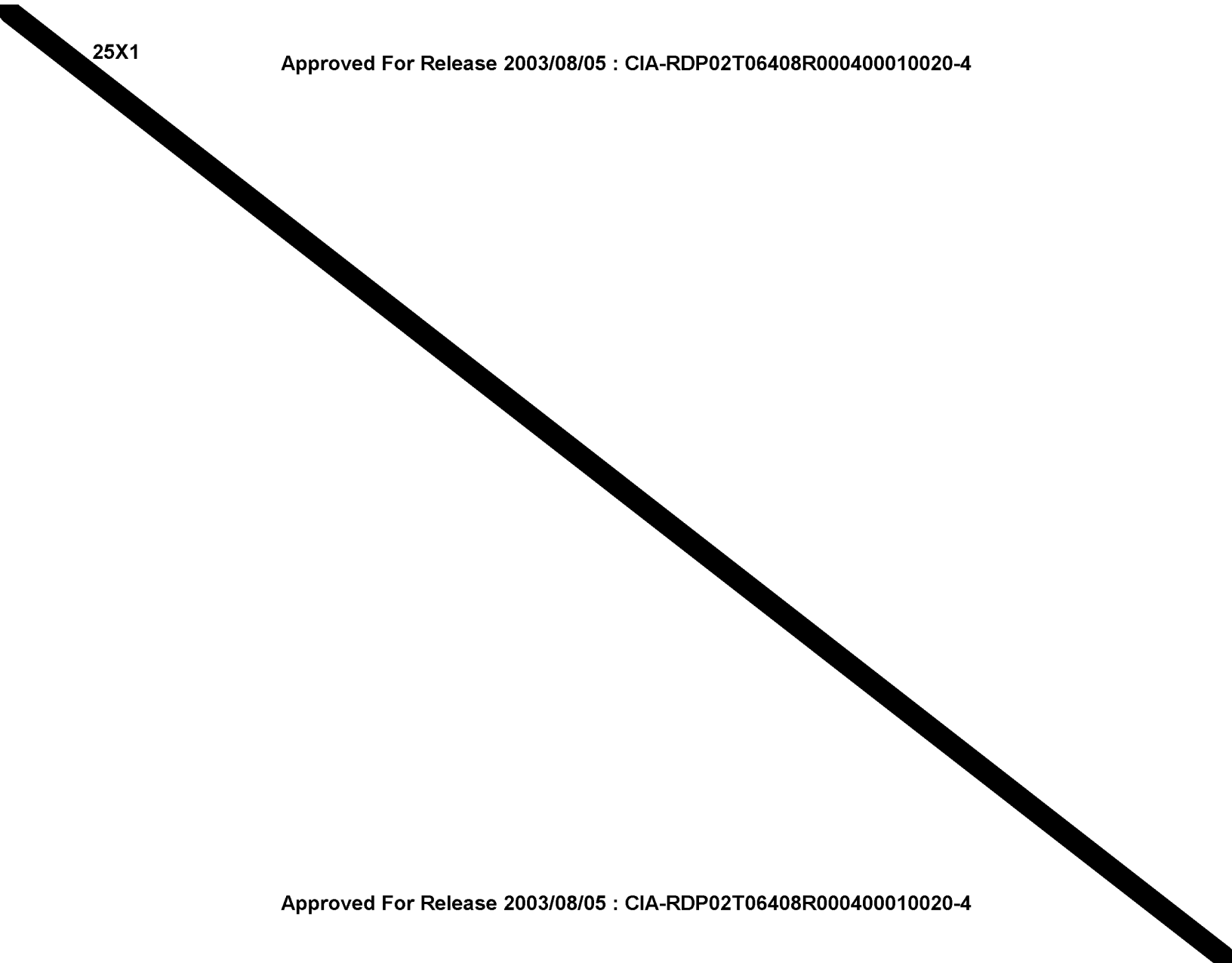

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TYURATAM MISSILE TEST CENTER LAUNCH COMPLEX J GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

Recent photography of Launch Complex J (Figure 1) at the Tyuratam Missile Test Center has provided an excellent and unprecedented view of 3 items of ground support equipment. In addition to the service tower/erector previously observed under construction at Launch Area J1-J2, 2 new pieces of equipment were seen for the first time within the missile assembly and checkout facility.

The service tower/erector forward of Pad J1 exhibited several new features (Figure 2). The vertical shaft which rises above one corner of the base has reached a height of approximately 445 feet. The steel latticework supports for this shaft, which rise from the other 2 corners of the triangular base, have been extended to a height of approximately 335 feet. Service platforms have been constructed along the side of the vertical shaft opposite the latticework supports. The top of the highest platform is approximately [redacted] above ground level, and the base of the lowest platform is approximately 100 feet off the ground.

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Perhaps the more interesting of the new items is a very large transporter/erector (Figure 3), probably for use in handling the first and, perhaps concurrently, second stages of the space booster to be launched from Launch Complex J. On [redacted] it was observed on the western pair of transporter tracks (previously identified as gantry tracks) immediately north of the missile assembly building (MAB), but on the following day it was no longer present. The transporter/erector is built of heavy structural steel and latticework members, with the main portion [redacted] in length and [redacted] in overall width. The base is largely obscured by shadow, but apparently consists of specially constructed platforms positioned on each of the 2 western lanes of the transporter tracks and connected by strong transverse members. At one end of the transporter/erector, strong vertical members rise 85 feet from each side. From the top of each vertical member, a longitudinal

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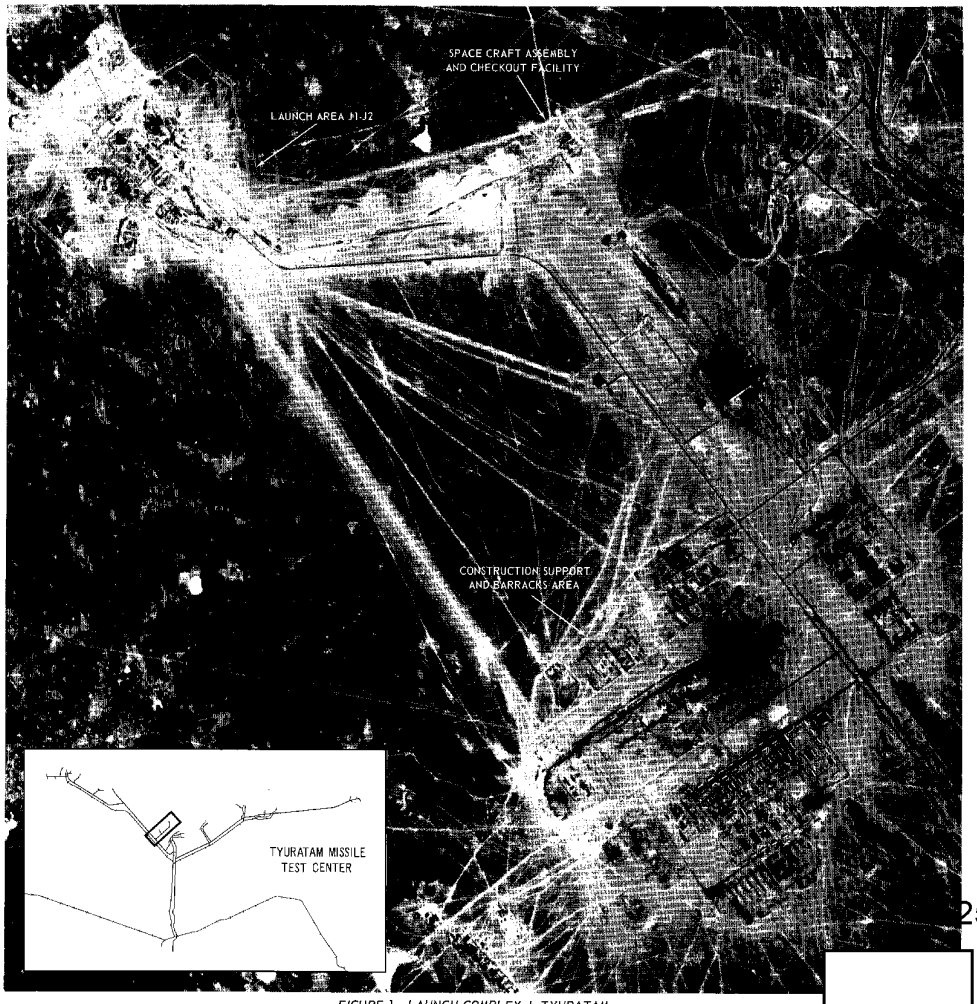

FIGURE 1. LAUNCH COMPLEX J, TYURATAM.

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member slopes downward to intersect the base near the opposite end. The vertical and sloping longitudinal members are set apart, indicating the maximum diameter of the stage or stages to be handled by this equipment. Heavy trusswork has been added between the base and the vertical and sloping longitudinal members to increase the rigidity of the structure. A horizontal longitudinal member, approximately above ground level, extends along the centerline of the transporter/erector and overhangs each end to some extent. This centerline member, with an apparently integral crossbar about midway along its length, is supported by a horizontal transverse member between the 2 vertical members at one end of the transporter/erector, and a less heavily constructed vertical member at the other end.

The other new item of ground support equipment (Figure 4), which was observed under construction in the materiel storage yard north of the MAB, consists of 2 specially constructed rail-mounted platforms, each feet long and The platforms are positioned side-by-side on adjacent rail spurs, where they can be serviced by overhead gantry cranes. A narrow, generally rectangular lug juts above the surface at one end of each platform, and a pair of triangular lugs is about a third of the way along the top of each platform. At the end opposite the rectangular lugs, the top surface of each platform slopes gradually downward for the last Cross bracing within each platform, consisting of perpendicular and diagonal struts, appears to exhibit mirror symmetry. This suggests that each platform will be on separate lanes of the transporter track and connected by transverse members to form either a single large piece of equipment (possibly a transporter) or, perhaps, a base for a second transporter/erector.

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REFERENCES

[redacted] 25X1

RELATED DOCUMENTS

25X1 NPIC. [redacted] *Tyuratam Missile Test Center, Launch Complex J*, Oct 66 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1

NPIC. [redacted] *Tyuratam Missile Test Center, Launch Complex J*, Oct 67 (TOP SECRET [redacted]

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-DI5-82,776 (Revised)

NPIC PROJECT

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